(b) how this figure compares with the stocks held on 1st July in each year in 1985, 1986 and 1987;

(c) whether it is a fact that the buffer stocks as on 1st July, 1989 are substantially lower than the targets fixed by Government; and

(d) what steps are being taken to replenish the stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The total stocks (Operational and Buffer) of foodgrains (wheat, rice and coarse grains) with the public agencies in the different years was as under:—

(Quantity in Lakh tonnes)

Date	Foodgrains	Requirement of foodgrains under Buffer Stocking Policy
1.7.1985	286.69	214.00
1.7.1986	232.82	214.00
1.7.1987	232.69	214 00
1.7.1989	130.45	214 00

(c) and (d) Stocks on 1-7-89 were lower than those prescribed under the buffer stocking policy. However, there is regular replenishment of stocks through procurement operations in the country and the procuring agencies have been advised to maximise the procurement. In addition, contracts for import of 3.76 lakh tonnes of rice for supply before the end of September, 1989 have been executed. Simultaneously the available stocks are being utilized judiciously to meet the reasonable requirements of the Public Distribution System.

Increase in the quota of essential commodities to Maharashtra during the festival season

1298. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have sent proposal to increase the quota of rice, wheat and edible oils to that State during the festival season; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested for additional allocation of 30,000 MTs of wheat and rice each for festival season. No additional allocation has, however, so far been made.

No specific request has been received from the Government of Maharashtra regarding increase in the quota of imported edilbe oils during the festival season.

Sharing of loss by Government in purchase of Onion in Maharashtra

1299. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have agreed to share the loss incurred in Onion purchasing in Maharashtra this year by Government of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what is the total loss share of Government of India and whether this share has been released to Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE